

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the production of non-flying plastic microballoons, which comprises bringing unexpanded, expandable plastic microballoons, which have been heated to a temperature lower than an expansion starting temperature thereof, and a mixture of a wetting agent and gas, said mixture having been heated to a temperature at least equal to said expansion starting temperature of said expandable plastic microballoons, into contact with each other to cause expansion of said expandable plastic balloons, and then cooling the resulting expanded plastic balloons,

wherein said wetting agent is an organic liquid having a boiling point higher than the temperature to which said mixture of said wetting agent and said gas is heated.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Original): A process according to claim 1, wherein said expandable plastic microballoons are microcapsules of a thermoplastic resin filled with a low boiling-point hydrocarbon as an expanding agent.

Claim 4 (Original): A process according to claim 1, wherein said expandable plastic microballoons and said mixture of said wetting agent and said gas, both of said microballoons and said mixture having been preheated, are instantaneously brought into contact with each other.

Claim 5 (Original): A process according to claim 1, wherein said wetting agent is used in a proportion of from 20 to 300 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of said unexpanded, expandable plastic microballoons.

Claim 6 (Original): A process according to claim 1, wherein said unexpanded, expandable plastic microballoons and said gas are used at a volume ratio of from 100:1 to 100:200.

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DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the subject matter of Claim 2 therein;
Claim 2 has been canceled.

No new matter has been added by the above amendment. With entry thereof, Claims 1 and 3-6 will be pending in the application.